

Public Policy Forum NI Limited

Northern Ireland · Charity number 108659

Details

Known as	Pivotal
Status	Received
Company number	656627
Registered	2022-03-22
Register	View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register

Contact

Address	C/o N I C V A 61 Duncairn Gardens Belfast Bt15 2GB BT15 2GB
Phone	07932 043835
Email	info@pivotalppf.org
Website	www.pivotalppf.org

Activities

Purposes: To advance citizenship by encouraging and equipping the public on a non-partisan basis to engage in the process of public policy-making, and by promoting the inclusion of sections of the community who are under-represented in public policy debate. To advance the education of the public by providing opportunities to learn about the processes and effects of public policy-making; and by undertaking, publishing and disseminating independent research on the potential implications and benefits of varied social and economic policy options. Nothing in these articles shall authorise an application of the property of the Charity for purposes which are not charitable in accordance with s.2 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

What the charity does: The advancement of education, The advancement of citizenship or community development

How the charity works: Research/evaluation

Who the charity helps: General public

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£113,809	£140,494	£0	2

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Andrew Mccormick		
David Gavaghan		
Mr Alan John Whysall		
Mr Barry Byrne		
Mr Seamus Gerard Mcaleavey		
Mrs Judith Gillespie		
Sarah Creighton		

Public Policy Forum NI Limited

Northern Ireland - Charity number 108659

Accounts

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LIMITED (PIVOTAL)
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED
31 MARCH 2025

Registered Charity No: NIC108659

**Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of the Public Policy Forum NI Ltd
Charitable Company**

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the charity trustees (and the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006. Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law as the charity is a small company charity, it is exempt from audit in accordance with section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- state whether matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act. The examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

07730 309081

info@karendrennanbms.com

101 Killinchy Road,
Comber, BT23 5NE

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records provided.
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

The accounts have been prepared using the accrual method.

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, and work has been undertaken to that I might state to the charitable company's members those matters which are required to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company's members and the charitable company's members as a body, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

K. Drennan

Karen Drennan
Karen Drennan Business Management Services
Chartered Accountant
101 Killinchy Road
Comber BT23 5NE
10 June 2025

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LIMITED - PIVOTAL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Note	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds 2025	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds 2024
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	3	105,000	-	105,000	100,000	-	100,000
Other Trading Activities	4	8,809	-	8,809	37,307	-	37,307
Investments	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total income		<u>113,809</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>113,809</u>	<u>137,307</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>137,307</u>
Expenditure on:							
Raising Funds		-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Trading Activities	6	140,494	-	140,494	144,669	-	144,669
Total Expenditure		<u>140,494</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>140,494</u>	<u>144,669</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>144,669</u>
Net (Expenditure)/Income		(26,685)	-	(26,685)	(7,362)	-	(7,362)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		51,566	-	51,566	58,928	-	58,928
Total funds carried forward		<u>24,881</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>24,881</u>	<u>51,566</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>51,566</u>

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LIMITED - PIVOTAL

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Income		
Interest and investment income	113,809	137,307
	-	-
Gross income	113,809	137,307
Expenditure		
Total expenditure	140,494	144,669
Net income	(26,685)	(7,362)

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LIMITED - PIVOTAL

BALANCE SHEET

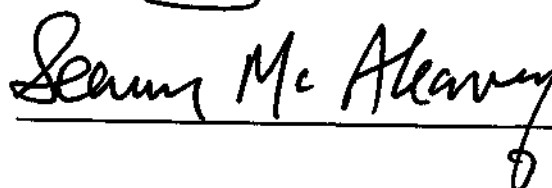
AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Note	2025	2024
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	-	-	-
Current assets			
Other Debtors	15	20,053	7,053
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>11,802</u>	<u>46,664</u>
		31,855	53,717
Creditors:			
Amounts falling due within one year	16	(6,974)	(2,151)
Net current assets		<u>24,881</u>	51,566
Creditors:			
Amounts falling due after more than one year	17	-	-
Net assets		<u><u>24,881</u></u>	<u><u>51,566</u></u>
 Charity Funds			
Restricted funds	19	24,881	51,566
Unrestricted funds	19	-	-
		<u><u>24,881</u></u>	<u><u>51,566</u></u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

These financial statements on the following pages were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on


Trustee


Trustee

The notes on the following pages form part of these financial statements.

Company Registration Number: NI 656627

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LIMITED - PIVOTAL

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Note	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Cash flow from operating activities	21	(26,685)	(7,362)
Net cash flow from operating activities		<u>(26,685)</u>	<u>(7,362)</u>
Changes in:			
Trade and other debtors		(13,000)	-
Trade and other creditors		4,823	(38)
Net cash flow from operating activities		<u>(8,177)</u>	<u>(38)</u>
Cash flow from financing activities			
Proceeds from bank loan		-	-
Repayment of bank loan		-	-
Net cash flow from financing activities		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents		(34,862)	(7,400)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		46,664	54,064
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year		<u>11,802</u>	<u>46,664</u>

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LTD

NOTES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 ACCOUNTING POLICES

General Information and basis of preparation

The Public Policy Forum NI Ltd is a charitable company and not having a share capital and is registered in Northern Ireland.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable United Kingdom accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland.

Statement of Compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in compliance with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2013, Charities (Accounts and reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention. The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the charitable company and rounded to the nearest £1.

Fund accounting – unrestricted funds

The charitable company's unrestricted funds consist of a general fund which is expendable at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the charitable objects of the organisation. The trustees may at their discretion designate funds for specific purposes but the designations does not legally restrict the trustees' discretion to apply the funds.

Fund accounting – restricted funds

The charitable company's restricted funds consist of funds where the donor has imposed restrictions on the use of the funds.

Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charitable company is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

For donations to be recognised the charitable company will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained then income is deferred until

those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the charitable company and it is probable that they will be fulfilled.

Voluntary income received by way of donations and gifts is credited to revenue on a receivable basis.

For legacies, entitlement is the earlier of the charity being notified of an impending distribution or the legacy being received. At this point income is recognised. On occasion legacies will be notified to the charitable company however it is not possible to measure the amount expected to be distributed. On these occasions, the legacy is treated as contingent asset and disclosed.

Income from grants are recognised at fair value when the charitable company has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably.

If entitlement is not met, then these amounts are deferred. Revenue grants are credited to incoming resources on the earlier date of when they are received or when they are receivable, unless they relate to a specified future period. Grants which contribute towards specific expenditure on fixed assets are credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in full upon receipt.

Accrued Income

Income from certain events has been accrued as the concerned event occurred before the year end.

Value Added Tax

The charitable company is not registered for VAT purposes; therefore, expenditure is shown gross of VAT.

Expenditure Recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

It is categorised under the following headings:

- Costs of raising funds comprises of direct costs; and
- Expenditure on charitable activities comprises those costs incurred by the charitable company in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries and includes direct costs for example, salary costs, consultancy costs, travel and subsistence and an apportionment of support costs

Support costs allocation

Support costs are those that assist the work of the charitable company but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs and administrative payroll costs.

They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objectives of the charitable company. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to headings, they have been allocated to cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources.

The analysis of these costs is included in note 7.

Taxation

As a charitable company, the company benefits from various exemptions afforded by tax legislation. It is therefore not liable to corporation tax on income or gains falling due within those exemptions. Recovery is made of tax deducted from receipts under gift aid.

Going Concern

The financial statement has been prepared on a going concern basis as the Trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The Trustees have considered the level of funds held and expected level of income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charitable company to be able to continue as a going concern.

2. Status

The company is a company limited by guarantee (NI656627).

The company is accepted as a charity by H M Revenue & Customs within the definition of Section 506(1) of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1998. The company has been registered by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland since March 2022 (charity number NIC108659).

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LIMITED - PIVOTAL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
	£	£	£	£
Programme Sponsorship	-	-	-	16,557
Fundraising & Donations	100,000	-	100,000	96,000
Other income	5,000	-	5,000	4,000
	<u>105,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>105,000</u>	<u>116,557</u>

4. Income from Other Trading Activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
	£	£	£	£
Joseph Rowntree Foundation	-	-	-	20,000
Training & Other income	8,809	-	8,809	750
	<u>8,809</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,809</u>	<u>20,750</u>

5. Income from investments

	£	£	2025 £	2024 £
Interest	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LIMITED - PIVOTAL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

6. Analysis of expenditure

	Activities undertaken directly	Grant funding of activities	Support costs	Total 2025
	£	£	£	£
Research & Publications	70,013	-	3,360	73,373
Communication & Engagement	41,776	-	1,120	42,896
Governance & Administration	11,807	-	305	12,112
Fundraising	11,807	-	305	12,112
	<u>135,403</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,091</u>	<u>140,494</u>

Analysis of expenditure

	Activities undertaken directly	Grant funding of activities	Support costs	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Research & Publications	90,067	-	2,935	93,002
Communication & Engagement	30,888	-	913	31,801
Governance & Administration	9,648	-	285	9,933
Fundraising	9,648	-	285	9,933
	<u>140,251</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,418</u>	<u>144,669</u>

7. Allocation of support costs

	Raising funds	Charitable activity	Total 2025
	£	£	£
Governance & Administration	-	600	600
Finance	-	108	108
Depreciation	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>708</u>	<u>708</u>

Allocation of support costs

	Raising funds	Charitable activity	Total 2024
	£	£	£
Governance	-	600	600
Finance	-	108	108
Depreciation	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>708</u>	<u>708</u>

8. Governance costs

	2025 £	2024 £
Independent Examiners Costs	600	600
Trustees remuneration	-	-
Trustee expenses	-	-
Legal and professional fees	-	542
Other	-	-
	<u>600</u>	<u>1,142</u>

Public Policy Forum NI Limited

Northern Ireland - Charity number 108659

Accounts

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LIMITED (PIVOTAL)
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED
31 MARCH 2024

Registered Charity No: NIC108659



**Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of the Public Policy Forum NI Ltd
Charitable Company**

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the charity trustees (and the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006. Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law as the charity is a small company charity, it is exempt from audit in accordance with section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- state whether matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act. The examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.



My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records provided.
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

The accounts have been prepared using the accrual method.

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, and work has been undertaken to that I might state to the charitable company's members those matters which are required to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company's members and the charitable company's members as a body, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.



Karen Drennan
Karen Drennan Business Management Services
Chartered Accountant
101 Killinchy Road
Comber BT23 5NE
10 June 2024

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LIMITED - PIVOTAL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Note	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds 2024
		£	£	£
Income from:				
Donations and legacies	3	100,000	-	100,000
Other Trading Activities	4	37,307	-	37,307
Investments	5	-	-	-
Total income		<u>137,307</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>137,307</u>
Expenditure on:				
Raising Funds		-	-	-
Other Trading Activities	6	144,669	-	144,669
Total Expenditure		<u>144,669</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>144,669</u>
Net (Expenditure)/Income		(7,362)	-	(7,362)
Reconciliation of funds:				
Total funds brought forward		58,928	-	58,928
Total funds carried forward		<u>51,566</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>51,566</u>

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LIMITED - PIVOTAL

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Income	137,307	86,525
Interest and investment income	-	-
Gross income	137,307	86,525
Expenditure	144,669	95,854
Total expenditure	144,669	95,854
Net income	(7,362)	(9,329)

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LIMITED - PIVOTAL

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Note	2024	2023
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	-	-	-
Current assets			
Other Debtors	15	7,053	7,053
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>46,664</u>	<u>54,064</u>
		53,717	61,117
Creditors:			
Amounts falling due within one year	16	(2,151)	(2,189)
Net current assets		51,566	58,928
Creditors:			
Amounts falling due after more than one year	17	-	-
Net assets		<u>51,566</u>	<u>58,928</u>
 Charity Funds			
Restricted funds	19	51,566	58,928
Unrestricted funds	19	-	-
		<u>51,566</u>	<u>58,928</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

These financial statements on the following pages were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on **17 June 2024**



Trustee



Trustee

The notes on the following pages form part of these financial statements.

Company Registration Number: NI 656627

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LIMITED - PIVOTAL

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Note	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Cash flow from operating activities	21	(7,362)	(9,329)
Net cash flow from operating activities		<u>(7,362)</u>	<u>(9,329)</u>
Changes in:			
Trade and other debtors		-	947
Trade and other creditors		(38)	(1,860)
Net cash flow from operating activities		<u>(38)</u>	<u>(913)</u>
Cash flow from financing activities			
Proceeds from bank loan		-	-
Repayment of bank loan		-	-
Net cash flow from financing activities		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents		(7,400)	(10,242)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		54,064	64,306
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year		<u><u>46,664</u></u>	<u><u>54,064</u></u>

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LTD
NOTES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 ACCOUNTING POLICES

General Information and basis of preparation

The Public Policy Forum NI Ltd is a charitable company and not having a share capital and is registered in Northern Ireland.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable United Kingdom accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland.

Statement of Compliance

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Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charitable company is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

For donations to be recognised the charitable company will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained then income is deferred until

those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the charitable company and it is probable that they will be fulfilled.

Voluntary income received by way of donations and gifts is credited to revenue on a receivable basis.

For legacies, entitlement is the earlier of the charity being notified of an impending distribution or the legacy being received. At this point income is recognised. On occasion legacies will be notified to the charitable company however it is not possible to measure the amount expected to be distributed. On these occasions, the legacy is treated as contingent asset and disclosed.

Income from grants are recognised at fair value when the charitable company has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably.

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Accrued Income

Income from certain events has been accrued as the concerned event occurred before the year end.

Value Added Tax

The charitable company is not registered for VAT purposes; therefore, expenditure is shown gross of VAT.

Expenditure Recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

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- Expenditure on charitable activities comprises those costs incurred by the charitable company in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries and includes direct costs for example, salary costs, consultancy costs, travel and subsistence and an apportionment of support costs

Support costs allocation

Support costs are those that assist the work of the charitable company but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs and administrative payroll costs.

They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objectives of the charitable company. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to headings, they have been allocated to cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources.

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Taxation

As a charitable company, the company benefits from various exemptions afforded by tax legislation. It is therefore not liable to corporation tax on income or gains falling due within those exemptions. Recovery is made of tax deducted from receipts under gift aid.

Going Concern

The financial statement has been prepared on a going concern basis as the Trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The Trustees have considered the level of funds held and expected level of income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charitable company to be able to continue as a going concern.

2. Status

The company is a company limited by guarantee.

The company is accepted as a charity by H M Revenue & Customs within the definition of Section 506(1) of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1998. The company has been registered by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland since March 2022 (charity number NIC108659).

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LIMITED - PIVOTAL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
Programme Sponsorship	16,557	-	16,557	15,000
Fundraising & Donations	96,000	-	96,000	32,000
Other income	4,000	-	4,000	8,000
	<u>116,557</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>116,557</u>	<u>55,000</u>

4. Income from Other Trading Activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
Equality Commission NI	-	-	-	29,750
Joseph Rowntree Foundation	20,000	-	20,000	-
The Department of Education	-	-	-	300
Training & Other income	750	-	750	1,475
	<u>20,750</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,750</u>	<u>31,525</u>

5. Income from investments

	£	£	2024 £	2023 £
Interest	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LIMITED - PIVOTAL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

6. Analysis of expenditure

	Activities undertaken directly	Grant funding of activities	Support costs	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Research & Publications	90,067	-	2,935	93,002
Communication & Engagement	30,888	-	913	31,801
Governance & Administration	9,648	-	285	9,933
Fundraising	9,648	-	285	9,933
	<u>140,251</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,418</u>	<u>144,669</u>

Analysis of expenditure

	Activities undertaken directly	Grant funding of activities	Support costs	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Research & Publications	53,432	-	1,703	55,135
Communication & Engagement	25,025	-	856	25,881
Governance & Administration	7,097	-	322	7,419
Fundraising	7,097	-	322	7,419
	<u>92,651</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,203</u>	<u>95,854</u>

7. Allocation of support costs

	Raising funds	Charitable activity	Total 2024
	£	£	£
Governance & Administration	-	600	600
Finance	-	108	108
Depreciation	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>708</u>	<u>708</u>

Allocation of support costs

	Raising funds	Charitable activity	Total 2023
	£	£	£
Governance	-	600	600
Finance	-	99	99
Depreciation	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>699</u>	<u>699</u>

8. Governance costs

	2024	2023
	£	£
Independent Examiners Costs	600	600
Trustees remuneration	-	-
Trustee expenses	-	-
Legal and professional fees	542	-
Other	-	-
	<u>1,142</u>	<u>600</u>

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LIMITED - PIVOTAL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

9. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE

	Raising Funds £	Other Trading Activities £	Other £	Total 2024			Total 2023		
				Total 2024 £	Analysed as:		Total 2024 £	Analysed as:	
					Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £
Direct costs									
Research & Publications	-	37,914	-	37,914	-	37,914	14,045	-	-
Communications & Engagement	-	5,610	-	5,610	-	5,610	5,265	-	-
Design & Print	-	5,825	-	5,825	-	5,825	1,196	-	-
Fundraising	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Salaries and NIC	-	82,952	-	82,952	-	82,952	64,682	-	-
Pension Contributions	-	7,950	-	7,950	-	7,950	6,254	-	-
Selection and Recruitment	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,209	-	-
Travelling and Subsistence	-	800	-	800	-	800	290	-	-
Printing and Stationery	-	156	-	156	-	156	9	-	-
Telephone and Computer charges	-	144	-	144	-	144	328	-	-
Membership & Subscriptions	-	215	-	215	-	215	293	-	-
Bank Charges and Interest	-	108	-	108	-	108	99	-	-
General Expenses	-	1,230	-	1,230	-	1,230	309	-	-
Insurance	-	623	-	623	-	623	772	-	-
Support costs									
Governance:									
Independent Examiner's Report	-	600	-	600	-	600	600	-	-
Trustees remuneration	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trustees expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Legal and professional fees	-	542	-	542	-	542	28	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	475	-	-
Office costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	144,669	-	144,669	-	144,669	95,854	-	-

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LIMITED - PIVOTAL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

10. Net income for the year

This is stated after charging:-

	2024 £	2023 £
Independent Examiners Fee	600	600
Depreciation of fixed assets	-	-
Operating lease payments	-	-
	<u>600</u>	<u>600</u>

11. Independent Examiner's remuneration

The independent examiner's remuneration amounts to £600 and other services of £Nil

12. Trustees and key management personnel remuneration and expenses

The Trustees neither received nor waived any remuneration during the year.

The total amount of employee benefits received by key management personnel is £44,496.

13. Staff costs and employee benefits

The average number of employees, employed by the company during the period April 2023 - March 2024 as 2.

	2024 Number	2023 Number
Raising funds	-	-
Charitable activities	2	2
Governance	-	-
	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

The total staff costs and employee benefits incurred during the year was as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	79,495	62,538
Social security costs	3,457	2,144
Defined contribution pension costs	7,950	6,254
	<u>90,902</u>	<u>70,936</u>

No employee received total employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of more than £60,000 during the period April 2023 - March 2024.

	2024	2023
<i>Allocated to:</i>		
Raising funds	-	-
Charitable activity	90,902	70,936
	<u>90,902</u>	<u>70,936</u>

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LIMITED - PIVOTAL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

14. Taxation

The charitable company is a registered charity and as such, is entitled to certain tax exemptions on income and profits from investments and surpluses on any trading activities carried out in the furtherance of the charitable company's primary objectives, if these profits and surpluses are applied solely for charitable purposes.

The charity is not registered for VAT and accordingly, all their expenditure is inclusive of VAT incurred.

15. Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Prepayments and accrued income	7,053	7,053
Amounts owed by related party	-	-
	<u>7,053</u>	<u>7,053</u>

16. Creditors: -amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Bank loans and overdrafts	-	-
Other tax and social security	-	-
Other creditors	2,189	2,189
Amounts owed to related party	-	-
Accruals	-	-
Deferred income	-	-
	<u>2,189</u>	<u>2,189</u>

17. Creditors: -amounts falling due after more than one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Bank loans and overdrafts	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

18. Pensions

The company operates a money purchase pension scheme for its employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund. The pension costs charge represents contributions payable by the company to the fund and amounted to £11,129 (2022-2023 £8,755) The amount of pension costs accrued at the year end amounted to £2189 (2023-2024 - £2189).

19. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible fixed assets £	Net current assets £	Long term liabilities £	2024 £
Unrestricted	-	51,566	-	51,566
Restricted	-	-	-	-
Total	<u>-</u>	<u>51,566</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>51,566</u>

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LIMITED - PIVOTAL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

20. Fund reconciliations

Unrestricted funds

	Balance at 31-Mar 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
General	58,928	137,307	(144,669)	-	51,566
Designated	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>58,928</u>	<u>137,307</u>	<u>(144,669)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>51,566</u>

Unrestricted funds consist of funds which are expendable at the discretion of the Charity in furtherance of its objectives. In addition to expenditure on activities such funds may be held in order to finance capital investment and working capital.

21. Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Net income for the year	- 7,362	- 9,329
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	-	-
Interest from investments	-	-
Increase in debtors	-	947
Increase in creditors	(38)	(1,860)
Net cash flow from operating activities	<u>(7,400)</u>	<u>(10,242)</u>

22. Financial commitments

No contracts had been placed for future capital expenditure at the balance sheet date.

23. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

The company has a contingent liability to repay grants received if the company fails to comply with certain conditions stipulated in the letters of offer under which the grants were paid. The directors do not expect any claims to be made in this respect.

24. COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

The Public Policy Forum NI Ltd is a company limited by guarantee having no share capital. It is governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association and the liability of the members is limited to an amount not exceeding £1.

25. ETHICAL STANDARDS

In common with many other organisations of our size and nature, we use our independent examiner to prepare and assist with the preparation of the financial statements.

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LIMITED - PIVOTAL

DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	2024		2023	
INCOME	£	£	£	£
GRANTS				
Department of Foreign Affairs	16,557		-	
International Public Policy Observatory			15,000	
		16,557		15,000
OTHER INCOME				
Research Income	20,000		30,050	
Other Income	750		1,475	
Donations	96,000		32,000	
Gift Aid	4,000		8,000	
		120,750		71,525
TOTAL INCOME		<u>137,307</u>		<u>86,525</u>
	£	£	£	£
EXPENDITURE				
<u>Central Costs</u>				
Salaries and NIC	82,952		64,682	
Pension Contributions	7,950		6,254	
Staff travel and subsistence	800		318	
Staff training and conferences	579		-	
Administration and office costs (Note 1)	3,039		2,885	
Selection and Recruitment Costs	-		1,209	
		95,320		75,348
<u>Communication & Engagement</u>				
Research & Publications	37,914		14,045	
Communications & Engagement	5,610		5,265	
Design & Print	5,825		1,196	
		49,349		20,506
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		<u>144,669</u>		<u>95,854</u>
TOTAL INCOME (Page xx)		137,307		86,525
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		- 7,362		- 9,329

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LIMITED - PIVOTAL

DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT *(Continued)*

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

Note 1	2024	2023
	£	£
ADMINISTRATION AND OFFICE COSTS		
Telephone, computer & IT costs	144	328
Printing, stationery and postage	156	9
Insurance	623	772
Payroll Fees	489	309
Independent Examiners Fee	600	600
Professional & Legal Fees	53	475
Membership & Subscriptions	215	293
Bank charges	108	99
General Expenses	651	-
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION AND OFFICE COSTS	<u>3,039</u>	<u>2,885</u>

Public Policy Forum NI Limited

Northern Ireland - Charity number 108659

Annual report

The Public Policy Forum N.I. Limited - Pivotal Annual Report for year ending 31 March 2024

Company No: NI656627

Northern Ireland Charity No: 108659

Registered Office Address: 61 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast, BT15 2GB

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1. Vision, mission, context and strategic priorities

Pivotal is an independent public policy think tank for Northern Ireland. Launched in September 2019, Pivotal aims to be a future-focussed, ambitious and innovative voice, promoting the use of evidence and research in order to improve policy decisions in Northern Ireland. Pivotal is independent of government and has no political alignment.

Vision

Pivotal's vision is better policy making and improved economic and social outcomes in Northern Ireland.

Mission

Pivotal's mission is to use research, evidence and engagement to inform and influence policy making in Northern Ireland.

Strategic context

Northern Ireland faces many long-standing economic and social challenges, for example educational inequality, low productivity, ongoing tensions between communities, poor health and social care provision, persistent poverty, and the lack of a climate change strategy. In that past, the political system here has tended not to be focussed on finding effective solutions for these longer term problems. Decisions are often made for political reasons rather than being based on research or evidence. Tough but necessary decisions are frequently avoided, because of the political difficulties involved.

Pivotal wants to help improve policy making by promoting evidenced-based solutions to Northern Ireland's policy problems. As part of increasing the use of evidence in policy making, Pivotal wants to involve more people in talking about the public policy issues that matter to them. We aim to enable more people to give their views on issues and influence policy decisions, particularly young people and others who might not have had a voice in the past. All our research involves engaging with a wide range of people including users of public services, researchers, public service providers, politicians, policy makers and members of the general public.

The social and economic challenges facing Northern Ireland are severe: by far the longest health waiting lists in the UK; low average skill levels; inequality in educational outcomes; low productivity and innovation; persistent poverty and deprivation, particularly in areas most affected by the Troubles; continued divisions between communities; and a lack of focus on climate change. There is an urgent need for improved policy decision-making in all of these areas.

Policy context in 2023-24

Since devolution in 1999, the Northern Ireland Executive has not been in place for more than 40% of the time, including over five of the last seven years. There was no Executive for a two-year period from February 2022 and no ministers from end October 2022.

Without an Assembly or Executive for almost all of 2023-24, civil servants were Northern Ireland's only decision-makers, but with limited and uncertain powers. The Secretary of State for Northern

Ireland made some legislative changes, for example setting a Budget for 2023-24, but otherwise he was adamant that other significant decisions should be taken by a restored Assembly and Executive.

The absence of an Assembly and Executive meant very limited progress on policy issues during 2023-24. While public services continued to be delivered, civil servants made only minimal decisions about changes or new initiatives. Unfortunately no programme for government had been agreed before the Executive collapsed, so civil servants did not even have this as a guide to follow. Over time a “governance gap” emerged, where no one was making important decisions, despite an urgent need for them.

There was a particular problem during the year with managing within the Budget for 2023-24 set by the Secretary of State, which was 0.9% lower in cash terms and 3.3% lower in real terms than the previous year’s budget. There were unresolved pay disputes and industrial action in multiple sectors. There was a particular tension with civil servants being required to manage within their department’s budget, but only being able to do so by making decisions about cutting spending for which they had no political authority.

An election was due after no Executive was formed by end October 2022, but was repeatedly postponed. Moreover, there was a complete lack of democratic accountability, transparency and scrutiny without the Executive and ministers, or the Assembly and its Committees. Some civil servants gave public statements or media interviews, but these were not consistently provided.

The Assembly and Executive returned on 3 February 2024, after the announcement of the ‘Safeguarding the Union’ command paper and a financial package for Northern Ireland from the UK Government. Ministers and MLAs were welcomed back with positivity and optimism, although the challenges they faced in both public services and budgets were enormous. The First and deputy First Ministers listed their policy priorities as public sector pay, health waiting lists, childcare, environment (especially Lough Neagh), Special Education Needs and public sector transformation. The financial package allowed most industrial disputes to be settled. A Budget for 2024-25 was agreed by the Executive at end April 2024, although it was opposed by the Health Minister. At the time of writing, a programme for government has not yet been produced.

Pivotal’s strategic priorities

1. Inform, enhance and influence policy decision-making in Northern Ireland through promoting research and evidence of what works.
2. Encourage and enable discussion about public policy issues, including involving more marginalised individuals and groups.
3. Use our work to make convincing arguments for policy change.
4. Build a reputation for being authoritative, influential, independent and relevant.
5. Be a sustainable, effective and efficient organisation which is an excellent place to work and with whom others want to engage.

2. Charitable purpose

Pivotal's organisational purposes as set out in our objects in the Company's Memorandum of Association are:

- To advance citizenship by encouraging and equipping the public on a non-partisan basis to engage in the process of public policy-making, and by promoting the inclusion of sections of the community who are under-represented in public policy debate.
- To advance the education of the public by providing opportunities to learn about the processes and effects of public policy-making; and by undertaking, publishing and disseminating independent research on the potential implications and benefits of varied social and economic policy options.

How our activities deliver public benefit

The Trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit. The Trustees are confident that Pivotal's vision, mission and strategic objectives are in accordance with the regulations on public benefit. The Trustees believe that our purpose satisfies both elements of the public benefit requirement. The direct benefits which flow from this purpose include:

- More people, and particularly those from disengaged sections of the community, will become actively engaged as citizens in the public policy-making process and in shaping the policies that directly and indirectly affect them.
- Elected representatives and public officials will be better informed and equipped to devise public policy.
- More people will understand how public policy is made and how it affects their lives, and public policy debate and implementation are informed by both expert evidence and public views.

These benefits will be evidenced through the collation of statistical information around participation in events and projects organised by the charity, and the range and numbers of sectors engaging. We will also provide qualitative information in the form of case studies and feedback from participants, politicians and policy-makers. We will assess the extent to which public policy-making reflects the outputs from the charity's work.

The purposes of our charity will not lead to any harm.

The charity's beneficiaries are the general public. The only private benefit that may arise would be to Trustees and staff who undertake skills training in good governance, finance, IT, event management, etc in order to enhance the charity's ability to deliver its services, but which may also be transferable to other settings. These skills are incidental and necessary to ensure the described benefit is provided to its public beneficiaries, the general public.

3. Governance and staff

Pivotal's Board

- David Gavaghan (Chair) – Advisor, consultant and director. *From January 2024*
- Peter Sheridan (Former Chair) – Chief Executive, Cooperation Ireland. *Resigned November 2023*
- Sarah Creighton – Housing Advisor and lawyer
- Judith Gillespie – Former Deputy Chief Constable, PSNI. *From November 2023*
- Richard Good – Director, Turnaround
- Jarlath Kearney – Strategy Advisor and media contributor
- Seamus McAleavey – Retired Chief Executive, Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action
- Andrew McCormick – Retired Northern Ireland Civil Service Permanent Secretary
- Sinéad McSweeney – Former Global Head of Public Policy, Twitter. *From November 2023*
- Rosalind Skillen – Climate activist and columnist
- Alan Whysall – Honorary Senior Research Associate, University College London

Pivotal's Reference Group

The Reference Group provides advice and support, and helps connect us with useful contacts in Northern Ireland and beyond. Current members are:

Tim Attwood, Jessica Caldwell, Eamonn Donaghy, Marianne Elliott, Lisa Faulkner-Byrne, Ryan Feeney, George Fergusson, David Gavaghan, Leo Green, Eva Grosman, Simon Hamilton, Will Haire, Robert Hazell, John Hunter, Fiona Kane, John McCallister, Fergal McFerran, Angela McGowan, Brigid McManus, David Phinnemore, Trevor Ringland.

Pivotal's staff

Ann Watt was appointed as Pivotal's Director in September 2019. Ann is a former senior civil servant, with 15 years' experience working in London in HM Treasury, Home Office and Cabinet Office. From 2014, Ann was the Head of the Electoral Commission in Northern Ireland for five years.

Dr James Greer joined Pivotal in February 2023 as Senior Researcher. James is an experienced academic and researcher. He has researched, taught and published widely on issues regarding politics and society in Northern Ireland, devolution and public policy across the UK, and the political history of Ireland.

Pivotal also uses research associates, research assistants, interns and placement students to work on particular projects.

4. Pivotal's values

In all our work we adhere to the following values:

Independent and objective

- We act only in the public interest
- We will not be associated with a single individual, organisation, political party, or ideology
- We will remain free to think radically and objectively, promoting policies based on evidence, not opinion

Authoritative, effective and influential

- Our research, analysis and advice will be accurate, credible and authoritative
- We will have the expertise to communicate and influence in order to make an impact

Inclusive and accessible

- We will seek to engage and involve the widest spectrum of people in our work
- We will provide a platform for new voices, particularly from those parts of the community under-represented in public debate
- We will make all our work accessible to the public

Open and transparent

- We will be transparent about how we are funded, who we are working with and what we are doing

5. Chair's report for 2023-24

Pivotal has had another good year building its contribution as an independent voice in public policy in Northern Ireland. We have produced relevant and timely research reports, and provided valued, independent analysis and commentary.

Pivotal has become an important and trusted voice on current issues, with much greater opportunity to contribute to decision-making since the Assembly and Executive returned in February 2024.

Pivotal's main outputs during 2023-24 were:

- two reports reviewing how government was functioning in Northern Ireland;
- a series of four reports on reconciliation and deprivation, including new research involving over 300 young people about what would make NI a better place to live, work and study;
- a commissioned scoping study for Joseph Rowntree Foundation about their future role in NI;
- substantial new work on economic inactivity which resulted in a research paper published in May 2024;
- evidence to a number of Westminster and Stormont Committees and consultations;
- comment and analysis day-to-day on government and policy issues, appearing frequently on local media and provided regular comment on X/Twitter.

Functioning of government in Northern Ireland

During 2023-24 Pivotal produced a report in the autumn about how government was working in Northern Ireland in the absence of an Executive and Assembly, and then another report to mark the return of the Assembly and Executive in February 2024:

- [Governing without government: the consequences](#) (September 2023)
- [The return of Stormont: time for real change](#) (February 2024)
- [Policy priorities for a returning Executive](#) (February 2024)

Research projects

We have worked on two major research projects during the year:

- **Reconciliation and deprivation - what would make Northern Ireland a better place to live, work and study?** This research study involved more than 300 young people through an online survey and focus groups. The project was funded by the DFA's Reconciliation Fund. We published a series of four reports:
 - [Reconciliation and deprivation: twin challenges for Northern Ireland](#) (May 2023)
 - [Youth voices: life, work and study in Northern Ireland](#) (June 2023)
 - [Youth solutions: improving education, training and employment in Northern Ireland](#) (October 2023)
 - [Youth solutions for building better communities in Northern Ireland](#) (October 2023)
- **Economic inactivity in Northern Ireland** – we completed an extensive literature and policy review, ahead of publication of a [research report](#) in May 2024.

Commissioned research

Pivotal was successful in being commissioned to do two research projects during the year:

- [Scoping study for Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#) about how they might increase their contribution to tackling poverty, destitution and economic insecurity in NI
- Research for Learning and Work Institute about career change and re-skilling in NI

Evidence submissions and consultation responses

We have provided submissions of evidence to Committees and consultations:

- Northern Ireland Affairs Committee - written evidence for [inquiry into the funding and delivery of public services](#)
- Northern Ireland Affairs Committee – written evidence for [inquiry into integrated education](#)
- Department of Finance consultation on [the financial context for revenue raising](#)

Pivotal Platform

In February 2024, we launched a new weekly blog series [Pivotal Platform](#), where we invite guest authors to write about a current policy issue. We take a light editorial approach, with the only guidelines being that the article is short and accessible, based on data and evidence, and includes specific recommendations for policy change. Topics have ranged from NI's productivity problem to the challenge of tackling educational disadvantage amongst young men, and from leadership in NI to the need for targets to restore our natural environment. It has been encouraging to see the interest and engagement that these articles have generated each week, and we hope it is a helpful contribution to greater evidence-based policy discussion. We are grateful to all those who have written articles for Pivotal Platform.

Events

We were pleased to contribute to events hosted by other organisations throughout the year, for example:

- annual lecture for the National Education Union on education and training for 14-19 year olds;
- presentation at Community Foundation NI's strategy launch about the state of government;
- presentation at the Fiscal Council's conference on how public spending in NI supports growth;
- Involve NI event on citizens' assemblies;
- Shared Island Youth Forum on Opportunity

Media and social media

We have contributed frequent comment and analysis on local and national radio and TV, including BBC Newsline, BBC Sunday Politics, BBC News Channel, UTV News, UTV View from Stormont, RTE

News, BBC Radio Ulster, Radio 4, U105 and Q Radio. We have also had significant coverage of our reports and other outputs in print media in Northern Ireland and beyond.

We continue to use X/Twitter day-to-day to share our work, comments and ideas, and have also started to use LinkedIn.

Queen's University Belfast (QUB) and Ulster University (UU)

We are grateful to QUB for providing Pivotal with an office and IT support from October 2023. Having our own office space again has been very beneficial to the team.

We hosted two QUB politics undergraduates for 12-week placements as part of their degrees.

We provided a number of lectures at QUB and UU on public policy in Northern Ireland, the work of think tanks, and how research can have an impact on policy.

We contributed again this year to the UU public policy challenge for economics undergraduates.

Staff team

Pivotal currently has a staff team of two – Ann Watt (Director) and James Greer (Senior Researcher). We continue in our aim to grow the team to a bigger size, but this depends on raising additional income.

During the year we have used Research Associates to support us on particular projects. We are particularly grateful to Dr Donna Kernaghan (Stats & Stories) for her contribution to our projects with young people on reconciliation and deprivation. We also thank Ruth Walker for her work on the scoping project for Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

We hosted four unpaid research interns during the year: two interns during summer 2023 and two QUB placement students in spring 2024.

Income generation

Increased stable income underpinned Pivotal's work this year, meaning that 2023-24 was the first year that the team had a sound financial platform on which to work. Pivotal's core costs were covered by three individual donors, giving the Board and staff more financial security and freedom to pursue the organisation's policy objectives. We are very grateful to these three donors for their investment and commitment to Pivotal.

We are grateful again to the Department of Foreign Affairs' Reconciliation Fund for a grant award during the year, which is partly funding further research into barriers to greater integration in education and housing.

We were pleased to be commissioned by Joseph Rowntree Foundation and by Learning and Work Institute to complete projects for them. As well as being useful policy projects, these also earned some additional income for Pivotal.

Securing sufficient funding for Pivotal remains a challenge. Our current funders have committed to support us for a 2-3 year period and we continue to seek additional income to secure Pivotal's future

beyond this period, to enable the organisation to grow and support good public policy decisions. We aim to have a range of different income sources, including private donors, business supporters, institutional supporters, charitable trusts, other grant-making organisations and commissioned research.

Our funders support Pivotal's independence as a policy think tank; accordingly they are not involved in our work day-to-day. This understanding is set out in a signed agreement with each of our funders (copy available on our website).

To date, as well as donations from individuals, Pivotal has received significant funding and support from a variety of other sources including:

- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade – Reconciliation Fund
- Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust
- Community Foundation for Northern Ireland
- Belfast Harbour
- NICVA – Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action
- International Public Policy Observatory (IPPO)
- Commissioned research projects (e.g. Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Equality Commission)
- Queen's University Belfast and Ulster University

We have benefited from reduced rates from Thought Collective (design agency) and Ryan Miller (media consultant). We are very grateful for their support and partnership in Pivotal's work.

Future plans

The business plan for 2024-25 agreed by the Board includes the following work:

- Research on barriers to integration in education and housing;
- Follow-up research on a particular aspect of economic inactivity, possibly about employment of people with disabilities;
- New research project on how well policy commitments are delivered;
- Two shorter reports on how government is functioning in NI

We will continue to seek opportunities to provide evidence-based analysis and comment on current issues, for example responding to consultations and inquiries, media opportunities and social media.

Thanks

Our sincere thanks to those who have funded Pivotal throughout this year, particularly our three main donors.

We are also grateful for all those individuals and organisations with whom we have worked in partnership and who have supported Pivotal in other ways:

- QUB for generous provision of office space and IT support;
- my fellow Trustees for giving their time and expertise to Pivotal. We were delighted to welcome two new Trustees during the year – Judith Gillespie and Sinéad McSweeney – who have already begun to make a strong contribution;

- On behalf of the Board and staff team, particular thanks to Peter Sheridan, Pivotal's first Chair, who stepped down in November 2023. Peter's wisdom and support helped guide Pivotal through some challenging times in the organisation's early years. We remain grateful for Peter's generous contribution of his time, insights and connections.

My final thanks are to Ann Watt (Director) and James Greer (Senior Researcher), who have once again brought expertise, energy and dedication to everything they have done for Pivotal throughout the year.

As a Board, we are glad that this year we have had a stronger financial footing, which in turn has been evidenced in the substantial increase in the range of work the team have delivered and the positive impact this is making in the public policy arena.

David Gavaghan – Chair

17 June 2024

Public Policy Forum NI Limited

Northern Ireland - Charity number 108659

Annual return

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LIMITED (PIVOTAL)
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED
31 MARCH 2024

Registered Charity No: NIC108659



**Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of the Public Policy Forum NI Ltd
Charitable Company**

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the charity trustees (and the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006. Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law as the charity is a small company charity, it is exempt from audit in accordance with section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- state whether matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act. The examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

07730 309081

info@karendrennanbms.com

101 Killinchy Road,
Comber, BT23 5NE



My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records provided.
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

The accounts have been prepared using the accrual method.

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, and work has been undertaken to that I might state to the charitable company's members those matters which are required to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company's members and the charitable company's members as a body, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.



Karen Drennan
Karen Drennan Business Management Services
Chartered Accountant
101 Killinchy Road
Comber BT23 5NE
10 June 2024

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LIMITED - PIVOTAL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Note	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds 2024
		£	£	£
Income from:				
Donations and legacies	3	100,000	-	100,000
Other Trading Activities	4	37,307	-	37,307
Investments	5	-	-	-
Total income		<u>137,307</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>137,307</u>
Expenditure on:				
Raising Funds		-	-	-
Other Trading Activities	6	144,669	-	144,669
Total Expenditure		<u>144,669</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>144,669</u>
Net (Expenditure)/Income		(7,362)	-	(7,362)
Reconciliation of funds:				
Total funds brought forward		58,928	-	58,928
Total funds carried forward		<u>51,566</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>51,566</u>

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LIMITED - PIVOTAL

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Income	137,307	86,525
Interest and investment income	-	-
Gross income	137,307	86,525
Expenditure	144,669	95,854
Total expenditure	144,669	95,854
Net income	(7,362)	(9,329)

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LIMITED - PIVOTAL

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Note	2024	2023
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	-	-	-
Current assets			
Other Debtors	15	7,053	7,053
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>46,664</u>	<u>54,064</u>
		53,717	61,117
Creditors:			
Amounts falling due within one year	16	(2,151)	(2,189)
Net current assets		51,566	58,928
Creditors:			
Amounts falling due after more than one year	17	-	-
Net assets		<u>51,566</u>	<u>58,928</u>
Charity Funds			
Restricted funds	19	51,566	58,928
Unrestricted funds	19	-	-
		<u>51,566</u>	<u>58,928</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

These financial statements on the following pages were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on **17 June 2024**


Trustee


Trustee

The notes on the following pages form part of these financial statements.

Company Registration Number: NI 656627

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LIMITED - PIVOTAL

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Note	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Cash flow from operating activities	21	(7,362)	(9,329)
Net cash flow from operating activities		<u>(7,362)</u>	<u>(9,329)</u>
Changes in:			
Trade and other debtors		-	947
Trade and other creditors		(38)	(1,860)
Net cash flow from operating activities		<u>(38)</u>	<u>(913)</u>
Cash flow from financing activities			
Proceeds from bank loan		-	-
Repayment of bank loan		-	-
Net cash flow from financing activities		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents		(7,400)	(10,242)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		54,064	64,306
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year		<u>46,664</u>	<u>54,064</u>

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LTD
NOTES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 ACCOUNTING POLICES

General Information and basis of preparation

The Public Policy Forum NI Ltd is a charitable company and not having a share capital and is registered in Northern Ireland.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable United Kingdom accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland.

Statement of Compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in compliance with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2013, Charities (Accounts and reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention. The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the charitable company and rounded to the nearest £1.

Fund accounting – unrestricted funds

The charitable company's unrestricted funds consist of a general fund which is expendable at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the charitable objects of the organisation. The trustees may at their discretion designate funds for specific purposes but the designations does not legally restrict the trustees' discretion to apply the funds.

Fund accounting – restricted funds

The charitable company's restricted funds consist of funds where the donor has imposed restrictions on the use of the funds.

Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charitable company is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

For donations to be recognised the charitable company will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained then income is deferred until

those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the charitable company and it is probable that they will be fulfilled.

Voluntary income received by way of donations and gifts is credited to revenue on a receivable basis.

For legacies, entitlement is the earlier of the charity being notified of an impending distribution or the legacy being received. At this point income is recognised. On occasion legacies will be notified to the charitable company however it is not possible to measure the amount expected to be distributed. On these occasions, the legacy is treated as contingent asset and disclosed.

Income from grants are recognised at fair value when the charitable company has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably.

If entitlement is not met, then these amounts are deferred. Revenue grants are credited to incoming resources on the earlier date of when they are received or when they are receivable, unless they relate to a specified future period. Grants which contribute towards specific expenditure on fixed assets are credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in full upon receipt.

Accrued Income

Income from certain events has been accrued as the concerned event occurred before the year end.

Value Added Tax

The charitable company is not registered for VAT purposes; therefore, expenditure is shown gross of VAT.

Expenditure Recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

It is categorised under the following headings:

- Costs of raising funds comprises of direct costs; and
- Expenditure on charitable activities comprises those costs incurred by the charitable company in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries and includes direct costs for example, salary costs, consultancy costs, travel and subsistence and an apportionment of support costs

Support costs allocation

Support costs are those that assist the work of the charitable company but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs and administrative payroll costs.

They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objectives of the charitable company. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to headings, they have been allocated to cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources.

The analysis of these costs is included in note 7.

Taxation

As a charitable company, the company benefits from various exemptions afforded by tax legislation. It is therefore not liable to corporation tax on income or gains falling due within those exemptions. Recovery is made of tax deducted from receipts under gift aid.

Going Concern

The financial statement has been prepared on a going concern basis as the Trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The Trustees have considered the level of funds held and expected level of income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charitable company to be able to continue as a going concern.

2. Status

The company is a company limited by guarantee.

The company is accepted as a charity by H M Revenue & Customs within the definition of Section 506(1) of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1998. The company has been registered by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland since March 2022 (charity number NIC108659).

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LIMITED - PIVOTAL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
Programme Sponsorship	16,557	-	16,557	15,000
Fundraising & Donations	96,000	-	96,000	32,000
Other income	4,000	-	4,000	8,000
	<u>116,557</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>116,557</u>	<u>55,000</u>

4. Income from Other Trading Activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
Equality Commission NI	-	-	-	29,750
Joseph Rowntree Foundation	20,000	-	20,000	-
The Department of Education	-	-	-	300
Training & Other income	750	-	750	1,475
	<u>20,750</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,750</u>	<u>31,525</u>

5. Income from investments

			2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Interest	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LIMITED - PIVOTAL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

6. Analysis of expenditure

	Activities undertaken directly	Grant funding of activities	Support costs	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Research & Publications	90,067	-	2,935	93,002
Communication & Engagement	30,888	-	913	31,801
Governance & Administration	9,648	-	285	9,933
Fundraising	9,648	-	285	9,933
	<u>140,251</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,418</u>	<u>144,669</u>

Analysis of expenditure

	Activities undertaken directly	Grant funding of activities	Support costs	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Research & Publications	53,432	-	1,703	55,135
Communication & Engagement	25,025	-	856	25,881
Governance & Administration	7,097	-	322	7,419
Fundraising	7,097	-	322	7,419
	<u>92,651</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,203</u>	<u>95,854</u>

7. Allocation of support costs

	Raising funds	Charitable activity	Total 2024
	£	£	£
Governance & Administration	-	600	600
Finance	-	108	108
Depreciation	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>708</u>	<u>708</u>

Allocation of support costs

	Raising funds	Charitable activity	Total 2023
	£	£	£
Governance	-	600	600
Finance	-	99	99
Depreciation	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>699</u>	<u>699</u>

8. Governance costs

	2024	2023
	£	£
Independent Examiners Costs	600	600
Trustees remuneration	-	-
Trustee expenses	-	-
Legal and professional fees	542	-
Other	-	-
	<u>1,142</u>	<u>600</u>

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LIMITED - PIVOTAL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

9. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE

	Total 2024				Total 2023				
	Raising Funds £	Other Trading Activities £	Other £	Total 2024 £	Analysed as:		Total 2024 £	Analysed as:	
					Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £
Direct costs									
Research & Publications	-	37,914	-	37,914	37,914	-	37,914	14,045	-
Communications & Engagement	-	5,610	-	5,610	5,610	-	5,610	5,265	-
Design & Print	-	5,825	-	5,825	5,825	-	5,825	1,196	-
Fundraising	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Salaries and NIC	-	82,952	-	82,952	82,952	-	82,952	64,682	-
Pension Contributions	-	7,950	-	7,950	7,950	-	7,950	6,254	-
Selection and Recruitment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,209	-
Travelling and Subsistence	-	800	-	800	800	-	800	290	-
Printing and Stationery	-	156	-	156	156	-	156	9	-
Telephone and Computer charges	-	144	-	144	144	-	144	328	-
Membership & Subscriptions	-	215	-	215	215	-	215	293	-
Bank Charges and Interest	-	108	-	108	108	-	108	99	-
General Expenses	-	1,230	-	1,230	1,230	-	1,230	309	-
Insurance	-	623	-	623	623	-	623	772	-
Support costs									
Governance:									
Independent Examiner's Report	-	600	-	600	600	-	600	600	-
Trustees remuneration	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trustees expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28	-
Legal and professional fees	-	542	-	542	542	-	542	475	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Office costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	144,669	-	144,669	144,669	-	144,669	95,854	-

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LIMITED - PIVOTAL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS *(Continued)*

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

10. Net income for the year

This is stated after charging:-

	2024 £	2023 £
Independent Examiners Fee	600	600
Depreciation of fixed assets	-	-
Operating lease payments	-	-
	<u>600</u>	<u>600</u>

11. Independent Examiner's remuneration

The independent examiner's remuneration amounts to £600 and other services of £Nil

12. Trustees and key management personnel remuneration and expenses

The Trustees neither received nor waived any remuneration during the year.

The total amount of employee benefits received by key management personnel is £44,496.

13. Staff costs and employee benefits

The average number of employees, employed by the company during the period April 2023 - March 2024 as 2.

	2024 Number	2023 Number
Raising funds	-	-
Charitable activities	2	2
Governance	-	-
	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

The total staff costs and employee benefits incurred during the year was as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	79,495	62,538
Social security costs	3,457	2,144
Defined contribution pension costs	7,950	6,254
	<u>90,902</u>	<u>70,936</u>

No employee received total employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of more than £60,000 during the period April 2023 - March 2024.

	2024	2023
<i>Allocated to:</i>		
Raising funds	-	-
Charitable activity	90,902	70,936
	<u>90,902</u>	<u>70,936</u>

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LIMITED - PIVOTAL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

14. Taxation

The charitable company is a registered charity and as such, is entitled to certain tax exemptions on income and profits from investments and surpluses on any trading activities carried out in the furtherance of the charitable company's primary objectives, if these profits and surpluses are applied solely for charitable purposes.

The charity is not registered for VAT and accordingly, all their expenditure is inclusive of VAT incurred.

15. Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Prepayments and accrued income	7,053	7,053
Amounts owed by related party	-	-
	<u>7,053</u>	<u>7,053</u>

16. Creditors: -amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Bank loans and overdrafts	-	-
Other tax and social security	-	-
Other creditors	2,189	2,189
Amounts owed to related party	-	-
Accruals	-	-
Deferred income	-	-
	<u>2,189</u>	<u>2,189</u>

17. Creditors: -amounts falling due after more than one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Bank loans and overdrafts	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

18. Pensions

The company operates a money purchase pension scheme for its employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund. The pension costs charge represents contributions payable by the company to the fund and amounted to £11,129 (2022-2023 £8,755) The amount of pension costs accrued at the year end amounted to £2189 (2023-2024 - £2189).

19. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible fixed assets £	Net current assets £	Long term liabilities £	2024 £
Unrestricted	-	51,566	-	51,566
Restricted	-	-	-	-
Total	<u>-</u>	<u>51,566</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>51,566</u>

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LIMITED - PIVOTAL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

20. Fund reconciliations

Unrestricted funds

	Balance at 31-Mar 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
General	58,928	137,307	(144,669)	-	51,566
Designated	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>58,928</u>	<u>137,307</u>	<u>(144,669)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>51,566</u>

Unrestricted funds consist of funds which are expendable at the discretion of the Charity in furtherance of its objectives. In addition to expenditure on activities such funds may be held in order to finance capital investment and working capital.

21. Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Net income for the year	- 7,362	- 9,329
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	-	-
Interest from investments	-	-
Increase in debtors	-	947
Increase in creditors	(38)	(1,860)
Net cash flow from operating activities	<u>(7,400)</u>	<u>(10,242)</u>

22. Financial commitments

No contracts had been placed for future capital expenditure at the balance sheet date.

23. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

The company has a contingent liability to repay grants received if the company fails to comply with certain conditions stipulated in the letters of offer under which the grants were paid. The directors do not expect any claims to be made in this respect.

24. COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

The Public Policy Forum NI Ltd is a company limited by guarantee having no share capital. It is governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association and the liability of the members is limited to an amount not exceeding £1.

25. ETHICAL STANDARDS

In common with many other organisations of our size and nature, we use our independent examiner to prepare and assist with the preparation of the financial statements.

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LIMITED - PIVOTAL

DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	2024		2023	
INCOME	£	£	£	£
GRANTS				
Department of Foreign Affairs	16,557		-	
International Public Policy Observatory			15,000	
		16,557		15,000
OTHER INCOME				
Research Income	20,000		30,050	
Other Income	750		1,475	
Donations	96,000		32,000	
Gift Aid	4,000		8,000	
		120,750		71,525
TOTAL INCOME		<u>137,307</u>		<u>86,525</u>
	£	£	£	£
EXPENDITURE				
<u>Central Costs</u>				
Salaries and NIC	82,952		64,682	
Pension Contributions	7,950		6,254	
Staff travel and subsistence	800		318	
Staff training and conferences	579		-	
Administration and office costs (Note 1)	3,039		2,885	
Selection and Recruitment Costs	-		1,209	
		95,320		75,348
<u>Communication & Engagement</u>				
Research & Publications	37,914		14,045	
Communications & Engagement	5,610		5,265	
Design & Print	5,825		1,196	
		49,349		20,506
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		<u>144,669</u>		<u>95,854</u>
TOTAL INCOME (Page xx)		137,307		86,525
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		- 7,362		- 9,329

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LIMITED - PIVOTAL

DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT *(Continued)*

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

Note 1	2024	2023
	£	£
ADMINISTRATION AND OFFICE COSTS		
Telephone, computer & IT costs	144	328
Printing, stationery and postage	156	9
Insurance	623	772
Payroll Fees	489	309
Independent Examiners Fee	600	600
Professional & Legal Fees	53	475
Membership & Subscriptions	215	293
Bank charges	108	99
General Expenses	651	-
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION AND OFFICE COSTS	<u>3,039</u>	<u>2,885</u>

Public Policy Forum NI Limited

Northern Ireland - Charity number 108659

Accounts

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LIMITED (PIVOTAL)
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED
31 MARCH 2023

Registered Charity No: NIC108659

**Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of the Public Policy Forum NI Ltd
Charitable Company**

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the charity trustees (and the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006. Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law as the charity is a small company charity, it is exempt from audit in accordance with section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- state whether matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act. The examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

07730 309081

info@karendrennanbms.com

101 Killinchy Road,
Comber, BT23 5NE

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records provided.
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

The accounts have been prepared using the accrual method.

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, and work has been undertaken to that I might state to the charitable company's members those matters which are required to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company's members and the charitable company's members as a body, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.



Karen Drennan
Karen Drennan Business Management Services
Chartered Accountant
101 Killinchy Road
Comber BT23 5NE
7 June 2023

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LIMITED - PIVOTAL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Note	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds 2023
		£	£	£
Income from:				
Donations and legacies	3	55,000	-	55,000
Other Trading Activities	4	31,525	-	31,525
Investments	5	-	-	-
Total income		<u>86,525</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>86,525</u>
Expenditure on:				
Raising Funds		-	-	-
Other Trading Activities	6	95,854	-	95,854
Total Expenditure		<u>95,854</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>95,854</u>
Net (Expenditure)/Income		(9,329)	-	(9,329)
Reconciliation of funds:				
Total funds brought forward		68,257	-	68,257
Total funds carried forward		<u>58,928</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>58,928</u>

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LIMITED - PIVOTAL

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income	86,525	111,094
Interest and investment income	-	-
Gross income	86,525	111,094
Expenditure	95,854	115,541
Total expenditure	95,854	115,541
Net income	(9,329)	(4,447)

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LIMITED - PIVOTAL


BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Note	2023	2022
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	-	-	-
Current assets			
Other Debtors	15	7,053	8,000
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>54,064</u>	<u>64,306</u>
		61,117	72,306
Creditors:			
Amounts falling due within one year	16	(2,189)	(4,049)
Net current assets		<u>58,928</u>	68,257
Creditors:			
Amounts falling due after more than one year	17	-	-
Net assets		<u>58,928</u>	<u>68,257</u>
 Charity Funds			
Restricted funds	19	58,928	68,257
Unrestricted funds	19	-	-
		<u>58,928</u>	<u>68,257</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

These financial statements on the following pages were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 12 June 2023


Trustee


Trustee

The notes on the following pages form part of these financial statements.

Company Registration Number: NI 656627

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LIMITED - PIVOTAL

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Note	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Cash flow from operating activities	21	(9,329)	(4,447)
Net cash flow from operating activities		<u>(9,329)</u>	<u>(4,447)</u>
Changes in:			
Trade and other debtors		947	- 8,000
Trade and other creditors		(1,860)	1,245
Net cash flow from operating activities		<u>(913)</u>	<u>(6,755)</u>
Cash flow from financing activities			
Proceeds from bank loan		-	-
Repayment of bank loan		-	-
Net cash flow from financing activities		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents		(10,242)	(11,202)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		64,306	75,508
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year		<u>54,064</u>	<u>64,306</u>

* Please note figures from 2022 have been recalculated and updated accordingly.

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LTD
NOTES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1 ACCOUNTING POLICES

General Information and basis of preparation

The Public Policy Forum NI Ltd is a charitable company and not having a share capital and is registered in Northern Ireland.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable United Kingdom accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland.

Statement of Compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in compliance with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2013, Charities (Accounts and reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention. The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the charitable company and rounded to the nearest £1.

Fund accounting – unrestricted funds

The charitable company's unrestricted funds consist of a general fund which is expendable at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the charitable objects of the organisation. The trustees may at their discretion designate funds for specific purposes but the designations does not legally restrict the trustees' discretion to apply the funds.

Fund accounting – restricted funds

The charitable company's restricted funds consist of funds where the donor has imposed restrictions on the use of the funds.

Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charitable company is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

For donations to be recognised the charitable company will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained then income is deferred until

those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the charitable company and it is probable that they will be fulfilled.

Voluntary income received by way of donations and gift is credited to revenue on a receivable basis.

For legacies, entitlement is the earlier of the charity being notified of an impending distribution or the legacy being received. At this point income is recognised. On occasion legacies will be notified to the charitable company however it is not possible to measure the amount expected to be distributed. On these occasions, the legacy is treated as contingent asset and disclosed.

The charitable company has received a grant from the International Public Policy Observatory to further its charitable activities. Income from grants are recognised at fair value when the charitable company has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably.

If entitlement is not met, then these amounts are deferred. Revenue grants are credited to incoming resources on the earlier date of when they are received or when they are receivable, unless they relate to a specified future period. Grants which contribute towards specific expenditure on fixed assets are credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in full upon receipt.

Accrued Income

Income from certain events has been accrued as the concerned event occurred before the year end.

Value Added Tax

The charitable company is not registered for VAT purposes; therefore, expenditure is shown gross of VAT.

Expenditure Recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

It is categorised under the following headings:

- Costs of raising funds comprises of direct costs; and
- Expenditure on charitable activities comprises those costs incurred by the charitable company in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries and includes direct costs for example, salary costs, consultancy costs, travel and subsistence and an apportionment of support costs

Support costs allocation

Support costs are those that assist the work of the charitable company but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs and administrative payroll costs.

They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objectives of the charitable company. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to headings, they have been allocated to cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources.

The analysis of these costs is included in note 7.

Taxation

As a charitable company, the company benefits from various exemptions afforded by tax legislation. It is therefore not liable to corporation tax on income or gains falling due within those exemptions. Recovery is made of tax deducted from receipts under gift aid.

Going Concern

The financial statement has been prepared on a going concern basis as the Trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The Trustees have considered the level of funds held and expected level of income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charitable company to be able to continue as a going concern.

2. Status

The company is a company limited by guarantee.

The company is accepted as a charity by H M Revenue & Customs within the definition of Section 506(1) of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1998. The company has been registered by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland since March 2022 (charity number NIC108659).

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LIMITED - PIVOTAL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£	£
Programme Sponsorship	15,000	-	15,000	69,594
Fundraising & Donations	32,000	-	32,000	-
Other income	8,000	-	8,000	-
	<u>55,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>55,000</u>	<u>69,594</u>

4. Income from Other Trading Activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£	£
Equality Commission NI	29,750	-	29,750	-
The Executive Office	-	-	-	25,000
Linen Quarter BID	-	-	-	10,000
The Department of Education	300	-	300	3,000
Belfast Chamber of Commerce	-	-	-	3,500
Training & Other income	1,475	-	1,475	-
	<u>31,525</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>31,525</u>	<u>41,500</u>

5. Income from investments

	£	£	2023 £	2022 £
Interest	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LIMITED - PIVOTAL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

6. Analysis of expenditure

	Activities undertaken directly	Grant funding of activities	Support costs	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Research & Publications	53,432	-	1,703	55,135
Communication & Engagement	25,025	-	856	25,881
Governance & Administration	7,097	-	322	7,419
Fundraising	7,097	-	322	7,419
	<u>92,651</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,203</u>	<u>95,854</u>

Analysis of expenditure

	Activities undertaken directly	Grant funding of activities	Support costs	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
Consultancy Fees	4,325	-	-	4,325
Research & Publications	64,322	-	984	65,306
Communication & Engagement	27,614	-	535	28,149
Governance & Administration	8,692	-	189	8,881
Fundraising	8,692	-	188	8,880
	<u>113,645</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,896</u>	<u>115,541</u>

7. Allocation of support costs

	Raising funds	Charitable activity	Total 2023
	£	£	£
Governance & Administration	-	600	600
Finance	-	99	99
Depreciation	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>699</u>	<u>699</u>

Allocation of support costs

	Raising funds	Charitable activity	Total 2022
	£	£	£
Governance	-	600	600
Finance	-	98	98
Depreciation	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>698</u>	<u>698</u>

8. Governance costs

	2023	2022
	£	£
Independent Examiners Costs	600	600
Trustees remuneration	-	-
Trustee expenses	28	-
Legal and professional fees	475	-
Other	-	-
	<u>1,103</u>	<u>600</u>

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LIMITED - PIVOTAL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

9. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE

	Total 2023			Total 2022			
	Raising Funds £	Other Trading Activities £	Other £	Total 2023 £	Analysed as:		Total 2022 £
					Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	
Direct costs							
Research & Publications	-	14,045	-	14,045	-	-	-
Communications & Engagement	-	5,265	-	5,265	4,325	-	-
Design & Print	-	1,196	-	1,196	3,499	-	-
Fundraising	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Salaries and NIC	-	64,682	-	64,682	96,744	-	-
Pension Contributions	-	6,254	-	6,254	9,079	-	-
Selection and Recruitment	-	1,209	-	1,209	-	-	-
Travelling and Subsistence	-	290	-	290	162	-	-
Printing and Stationery	-	9	-	9	50	-	-
Telephone and Computer charges	-	328	-	328	156	-	-
Membership & Subscriptions	-	293	-	293	73	-	-
Bank Charges and Interest	-	99	-	99	97	-	-
General Expenses	-	309	-	309	177	-	-
Insurance	-	772	-	772	579	-	-
Support costs							
Governance:							
Independent Examiner's Report	-	600	-	600	600	-	-
Trustees remuneration	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trustees expenses	-	28	-	28	-	-	-
Legal and professional fees	-	475	-	475	475	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Office costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	95,854	-	95,854	95,854	115,541	-

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LIMITED - PIVOTAL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS *(Continued)*

AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

10. Net income for the year

This is stated after charging:-

	2023	2022
	£	£
Independent Examiners Fee	600	600
Depreciation of fixed assets	-	-
Operating lease payments	-	-
	<u>600</u>	<u>600</u>

11. Independent Examiner's remuneration

The independent examiner's remuneration amounts to £600 and other services of £Nil

12. Trustees and key management personnel remuneration and expenses

The Trustees neither received nor waived any remuneration during the year.
Travel expenses of £28.14 was paid during the year.
The total amount of employee benefits received by key management personnel is £41,715.

13. Staff costs and employee benefits

The average number of employees, employed by the company during the period April 2022 - March 2023 as 2.

	2023	2022
	Number	Number
Raising funds	-	-
Charitable activities	2	3
Governance	-	-
	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>

The total staff costs and employee benefits incurred during the year was as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	62,538	90,817
Social security costs	2,144	5,927
Defined contribution pension costs	6,254	9,079
	<u>70,936</u>	<u>105,823</u>

No employee received total employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of more than £60,000 during the period April 2022 - March 2023.

	2023	2022
<i>Allocated to:</i>		
Raising funds	-	-
Charitable activity	70,936	56,229
	<u>70,936</u>	<u>56,229</u>

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LIMITED - PIVOTAL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

14. Taxation

The charitable company is a registered charity and as such, is entitled to certain tax exemptions on income and profits from investments and surpluses on any trading activities carried out in the furtherance of the charitable company's primary objectives, if these profits and surpluses are applied solely for charitable purposes.

The charity is not registered for VAT and accordingly, all their expenditure is inclusive of VAT incurred.

15. Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Prepayments and accrued income	7,053	8,000
Amounts owed by related party	-	-
	<u>7,053</u>	<u>8,000</u>

16. Creditors: -amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Bank loans and overdrafts	-	-
Other tax and social security	-	633
Other creditors	2,189	3,416
Amounts owed to related party	-	-
Accruals	-	-
Deferred income	-	-
	<u>2,189</u>	<u>4,049</u>

17. Creditors: -amounts falling due after more than one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Bank loans and overdrafts	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

18. Pensions

The company operates a money purchase pension scheme for its employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund. The pension costs charge represents contributions payable by the company to the fund and amounted to £8,755 (2021-2022 £12,710) The amount of pension costs accrued at the year end amounted to £2189 (2021-2022 - £2146).

19. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible fixed assets £	Net current assets £	Long term liabilities £	2023 £
Unrestricted	-	58,928	-	58,928
Restricted	-	-	-	-
Total	<u>-</u>	<u>58,928</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>58,928</u>

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LIMITED - PIVOTAL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

20. Fund reconciliations

Unrestricted funds

	Balance at 31-Mar 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
General	68,257	86,525	(95,854)	-	58,928
Designated	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>68,257</u>	<u>86,525</u>	<u>(95,854)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>58,928</u>

Unrestricted funds consist of funds which are expendable at the discretion of the Charity in furtherance of its objectives. In addition to expenditure on activities such funds may be held in order to finance capital investment and working capital.

21. Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Net income for the year	- 9,329	- 4,447
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	-	-
Interest from investments	-	-
Increase in debtors	947	8,000
Increase in creditors	(1,860)	1,245
Net cash flow from operating activities	<u>(10,242)</u>	<u>(11,202)</u>

*Please note that figures for 2022 have been recalculated and updated accordingly

22. Financial commitments

No contracts had been placed for future capital expenditure at the balance sheet date.

23. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

The company has a contingent liability to repay grants received if the company fails to comply with certain conditions stipulated in the letters of offer under which the grants were paid. The directors do not expect any claims to be made in this respect.

24. COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

The Public Policy Forum NI Ltd is a company limited by guarantee having no share capital. It is governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association and the liability of the members is limited to an amount not exceeding £1.

25. ETHICAL STANDARDS

In common with many other organisations of our size and nature, we use our independent examiner to prepare and assist with the preparation of the financial statements.

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LIMITED - PIVOTAL

DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

INCOME	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
GRANTS				
Department of Foreign Affairs	-		54,594	
International Public Policy Observatory	15,000		15,000	
		15,000		69,594
OTHER INCOME				
Research Income	30,050		41,500	
Other Income	1,475		-	
Donations	32,000		-	
Gift Aid	8,000		-	
		71,525		41,500
TOTAL INCOME		86,525		111,094
EXPENDITURE				
<u>Central Costs</u>				
Salaries and NIC	64,682		96,744	
Pension Contributions	6,254		9,079	
Staff travel and subsistence	318		162	
Staff training and conferences	-		-	
Administration and office costs (Note 1)	2,885		1,732	
Selection and Recruitment Costs	1,209		-	
		75,348		107,717
<u>Communication & Engagement</u>				
Research & Publications	14,045		-	
Communications & Engagement	5,265		4,325	
Design & Print	1,196		3,499	
		20,506		7,824
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		95,854		115,541
TOTAL INCOME (Page xx)		86,525		111,094
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		- 9,329		- 4,447

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LIMITED - PIVOTAL

DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT *(Continued)*

AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

Note 1	2023	2022
	£	£
ADMINISTRATION AND OFFICE COSTS		
Telephone, computer & IT costs	328	156
Printing, stationery and postage	9	50
Insurance	772	579
Payroll Fees	309	177
Independent Examiners Fee	600	600
Professional & Legal Fees	475	-
Membership & Subscriptions	293	73
Bank charges	99	97
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION AND OFFICE COSTS	<u>2,885</u>	<u>1,732</u>

Public Policy Forum NI Limited

Northern Ireland - Charity number 108659

Annual report

The Public Policy Forum N.I. Limited - Pivotal Annual Report for year ending 31 March 2023

Company No: NI656627

Northern Ireland Charity No: 108659

Registered Office Address: 15 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast, BT15 2GB

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3	Governance and staff	6
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1. Vision, mission, context and strategic priorities

Pivotal is an independent public policy think tank for Northern Ireland. Launched in September 2019, Pivotal aims to be a future-focussed, ambitious and innovative voice, promoting the use of evidence and research in order to improve policy decisions in Northern Ireland. Pivotal is independent of government and has no political alignment.

Vision

Pivotal's vision is better policy making and improved economic and social outcomes in Northern Ireland.

Mission

Pivotal's mission is to use research, evidence and engagement to inform and influence policy making in Northern Ireland.

Strategic context

Northern Ireland faces many long-standing economic and social challenges, for example educational inequality, low productivity, ongoing tensions between communities, poor health and social care provision, persistent poverty, and the lack of a climate change strategy. But the focus of political debate here is rarely on finding effective solutions for these longer term problems. Decisions are often made for political reasons, rather than being based on research or evidence. Tough but necessary decisions are frequently avoided, because of the political difficulties involved.

Pivotal wants to help improve policy making by promoting evidenced-based solutions to Northern Ireland's policy problems. As part of increasing the use of evidence in policy making, Pivotal wants to involve more people in talking about the policy issues that matter to them. We aim to enable more people to give their views on issues and influence policy decisions, particularly young people and others who might not have had a voice in the past. All our research involves engaging with a wide range of people including users of public services, researchers, public service providers, politicians, policy makers and members of the general public.

Policy context

The social and economic challenges facing Northern Ireland at present are severe: by far the longest health waiting lists in the UK; low average skill levels; inequality in educational outcomes depending on social background; low productivity and innovation; persistent deprivation, particularly in areas most affected by the Troubles; continued divisions between communities; and a lack of focus on climate change. There is an urgent and broad need for improved policy decision-making in all of these areas.

Since devolution in 1999, the Northern Ireland Executive has not been in place for more than 40% of the time, including over four of the last six years. There has been no Executive since February 2022 and no Assembly since the following month. An Assembly election was held on 5 May 2022, but again no Executive was established.

New legislation meant that caretaker ministers were in place until end October 2022, but without an Executive or Assembly. This allowed some decision-making and accountability during this period, although without any major decisions that would have required Executive approval.

From end October 2022, civil servants were Northern Ireland's only decision-makers, but with limited powers. The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland stepped in to make some legislative changes, for example setting Budgets for 2022-23 and 2023-24 and extending civil service powers.

The absence of an Executive for the whole of 2022-23, and the absence of ministers for part of it, has meant very limited progress on policy issues. Caretaker ministers (and to a less extent civil servants) were able to take some decisions, as long as they were in line with previous policies, for example initiatives to reduce health waiting lists, a mental health strategy delivery plan, and funding for education programmes addressing disadvantage. However, without an Executive, no Programme for Government or Budget could be agreed.

Overall, the operation of government was severely limited during 2022-23. At best, the situation was one of short-term survival rather than longer term planning for improved public services. Pivotal assessed how well government was working here in several papers during the year (see below).

Pivotal's Strategic Priorities

1. Inform, enhance and influence policy decision-making in Northern Ireland through promoting research and evidence of what works.
2. Encourage and enable discussion about public policy issues, including involving more marginalised individuals and groups.
3. Use our work to make convincing arguments for policy change.
4. Build a reputation for being authoritative, influential, independent and relevant.
5. Be a sustainable, effective and efficient organisation which is an excellent place to work and with whom others want to engage.

2. Charitable purpose

Pivotal's organisational purposes as set out in our objects in the Company's Memorandum of Association are:

- To advance citizenship by encouraging and equipping the public on a non-partisan basis to engage in the process of public policy-making, and by promoting the inclusion of sections of the community who are under-represented in public policy debate.
- To advance the education of the public by providing opportunities to learn about the processes and effects of public policy-making; and by undertaking, publishing and disseminating independent research on the potential implications and benefits of varied social and economic policy options.

How our activities deliver public benefit

The Trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit. The Trustees are confident that Pivotal's vision, mission and strategic objectives are in accordance with the regulations on public benefit. The Trustees believe that our purpose satisfies both elements of the public benefit requirement. The direct benefits which flow from this purpose include:

- More people, and particularly those from disengaged sections of the community, will become actively engaged as citizens in the public policy-making process and in shaping the policies that directly and indirectly affect them.
- Elected representatives and public officials will be better informed and equipped to devise public policy.
- More people will understand how public policy is made and how it affects their lives, and public policy debate and implementation are informed by both expert evidence and public views.

These benefits will be evidenced through the collation of statistical information around participation in events and projects organised by the charity, and the range and numbers of sectors engaging. We will also provide qualitative information in the form of case studies and feedback from participants, politicians and policy-makers. We will assess the extent to which public policy-making reflects the outputs from the charity's work.

The purposes of our charity will not lead to any harm.

The charity's beneficiaries are the general public. The only private benefit that may arise would be to Trustees and staff who undertake skills training in good governance, finance, IT, event management, etc in order to enhance the charity's ability to deliver its services, but which may also be transferable to other settings. These skills are incidental and necessary to ensure the described benefit is provided to its public beneficiaries, the general public.

3. Governance and staff

Pivotal's Board

- Peter Sheridan (Chair) – Chief Executive, Cooperation Ireland
- Sarah Creighton – Housing Advisor and lawyer (from January 2023)
- Lisa Faulkner Byrne – Project Co-ordinator, EPIC (until November 2022)
- Richard Good – Director, Turnaround
- Jarlath Kearney – Strategy Advisor and media contributor (from January 2023)
- Olwen Lyner – Chief Executive, NIACRO (until May 2022)
- Seamus McAleavey – retired Chief Executive, Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action
- Andrew McCormick – retired Northern Ireland Civil Service Permanent Secretary (from January 2023)
- Rosalind Skillen – climate activist and columnist (from November 2022)
- Alan Whysall – Honorary Senior Research Associate, University College London

Pivotal's Reference Group

The Reference Group provides advice and support, and helps connect us with useful contacts in Northern Ireland and beyond. Current members are:

Tim Attwood, Roisin Brown, Jessica Caldwell, Eamonn Donaghy, Marianne Elliott, Lisa Faulkner-Byrne, Ryan Feeney, George Fergusson, David Gavaghan, Leo Green, Eva Grosman, Simon Hamilton, Will Haire, Robert Hazell, John Hunter, Fiona Kane, John McCallister, Fergal McFerran, Angela McGowan, Ann McGregor, Brigid McManus, David Phinnemore, Trevor Ringland.

Pivotal's staff

Ann Watt was appointed as Pivotal's Director in September 2019. Ann is a former senior civil servant, with 15 years' experience working in London in HM Treasury, Home Office and Cabinet Office. From 2014, Ann was the Head of the Electoral Commission in Northern Ireland for five years.

Dr Ben Harper was Pivotal's Research Manager from May 2020 until August 2022. Ben has a Doctorate in psychology and has worked in research, teaching and leadership roles for ten years in local government, the health service and academia.

Dr James Greer joined Pivotal in February 2023 as Senior Researcher. James is an experienced academic and researcher. He has researched, taught and published widely on issues about politics and society in Northern Ireland, devolution and public policy across the UK, and the political history of Ireland.

Pivotal also uses research associates, research assistants, interns and placement students to work on particular projects.

4. Pivotal's values

In all our work we adhere to the following values:

Independent and objective

- We act only in the public interest
- We will not be associated with a single individual, organisation, political party, or ideology
- We will remain free to think radically and objectively, promoting policies based on evidence, not opinion

Authoritative, effective and influential

- Our research, analysis and advice will be accurate, credible and authoritative
- We will have the expertise to communicate and influence in order to make an impact

Inclusive and accessible

- We will seek to engage and involve the widest spectrum of people in our work
- We will provide a platform for new voices, particularly from those parts of the community under-represented in public debate
- We will make all our work accessible to the public

Open and transparent

- We will be transparent about how we are funded, who we are working with and what we are doing

5. Chair's report for 2022-23

I am pleased to provide Pivotal's annual report for 2022-23. This was another year without proper government in Northern Ireland. Partly because of this, it was also another challenging year for Pivotal. Nevertheless I am pleased with how the organisation has continued to develop a reputation and track record as a valued independent public policy voice in Northern Ireland.

The absence of an Executive and Assembly throughout 2022-23 has led to a lack of progress on policy issues across the board, with caretaker ministers and then civil servants only able to take decisions in line with previous policies. Existing problems across multiple public services worsened and new issues emerged. The absence of a proper Budget for much of the year added to these difficulties. For Pivotal this has meant fewer opportunities to influence decision-making, but at the same time it has created chances to provide independent analysis of the impact of the absence of proper government.

Pivotal's main outputs during the year were: three reports on government in Northern Ireland; a substantial commissioned research report for the Equality Commission; and good progress on a new research project with young people about what would make Northern Ireland a better place to live, work and study. We have also made numerous contributions about policy issues on local media and provided regular comment and analysis on Twitter.

It has remained challenging to secure the income needed to ensure Pivotal's financial sustainability. I am pleased to report a significant step forward this year, with three individual funders together committing to cover the organisation's minimum core costs (two staff) for the next 2-3 years. We continue to seek additional income from a range of funders to secure our longer term future and to enable the organisation to grow.

Research and policy publications

During 2022-23 Pivotal produced three reports about how government was working in Northern Ireland in the absence of an Executive and Assembly:

- [Governing Northern Ireland without an Executive](#) (September 2022)
- [Governing without Ministers – Northern Ireland after 28 October](#) (October 2022)
- [Who is governing Northern Ireland?](#) (February 2023)

Events and podcasts

In the run-up to the Assembly election in May 2022, Pivotal published a [policy priorities paper](#) and [nine policy podcasts](#) with experts on topics like the cost of living crisis, challenges in the health service, climate change, education, productivity and mental health and young people.

We were pleased to contribute to events and podcasts hosted by other organisations throughout the year, for example providing a presentation on our educational migration research at NIO's Wilton Park event on challenges facing young people in June 2022.

Research

We have worked on two major research projects during the year:

- **Reconciliation and deprivation: what would make Northern Ireland a better place to live, work and study?** – this research examines the evidence about what has been achieved since 1998 in promoting reconciliation and address deprivation. It includes extensive consultation with over 300 young people through an online survey and a series of focus groups. The first report [Reconciliation and deprivation: twin challenges for Northern Ireland](#) was published in May 2023. It will be followed by two further reports in June and September 2023. This project is funded from the DFA’s Reconciliation Fund.
- **Impact of Brexit on minority ethnic and migrant people in Northern Ireland** (see [report](#)) – this was a commissioned research project for the Equality Commission. It involved a review of the existing published literature and data, plus new focus groups and interviews with people from these groups and organisations working with them.

Media and social media

Throughout the year we have been pleased to see an increase in the number and range of invitations we have received to participate on local radio and TV news programmes, including BBC Newsline, UTV News, UTV View from Stormont, BBC Radio Ulster, U105 and Q Radio. We have also had significant coverage of our reports and other outputs in print media in Northern Ireland and beyond, including on RTE News, Radio 4, BBC News Channel and in the Financial Times.

We continue to use Twitter to share our work. During the year we have increased the amount of comment on current issues that we provide on Twitter, for example on the absence of government, budgets and other policy issues.

Evidence submissions and consultation responses

We have provided submissions of evidence as below:

- Northern Ireland Affairs Committee - oral and written evidence for inquiry into the effectiveness of the Belfast Good Friday Agreement institutions in bringing about effective and stable government in Northern Ireland (see [written evidence](#))
- Department of Finance consultation on the devolution of increased fiscal powers (see [submission](#))

The absence of an Executive and Assembly has meant there have not been any opportunities to provide evidence to Stormont Committees during the year.

Partnerships with Queen’s University Belfast and Ulster University

We are grateful to Queen’s University and Ulster University for the generous pro bono support they provided to Pivotal during our first few years.

Until December 2022, we continued to partner with Professor Muiris MacCarthaigh at QUB as the Northern Ireland team for the International Public Policy Observatory (IPPO). This included organising and running an evidence session on the impact of Covid on violence against women and girls, and leading a project to assess different models of Covid observatories.

We provided two half-day training sessions for Early Career Researchers at QUB and UU on how research can have an impact on policy.

We contributed again this year to the UU undergraduate public policy challenge for economics undergraduates.

Team development

We continue in our aim to grow the staff team from its current size (Director and one Researcher), but this depends on raising additional income.

In August 2022, we said goodbye to Dr Ben Harper who left Pivotal for a civil service role. We are very grateful to Ben for his contribution over the previous two years and we wish him well for his future career.

In February 2023, we were pleased to welcome Dr James Greer to Pivotal as Senior Researcher. James brings broad experience from his career so far in research and teaching at QUB.

During the year we have used Research Associates and a research assistant to support us on particular projects. We are particularly grateful to Dr Donna Kernaghan (Stats & Stories) for her contribution to our projects with young people on reconciliation and deprivation. We also thank Dr Clodagh Miskelly for her help with the project on the impact of Brexit on minority ethnic and migrant groups for the Equality Commission.

Income generation

Pivotal aims to have a range of different income sources, including private donors, business supporters, charitable trusts, other grant-making organisations and commissioned research.

Although our income and expenditure were lower in 2022-23 than in previous years, we are delighted to have secured agreement from three individual donors to provide funding to cover our minimum core costs (two staff posts) for the next 2-3 years, beginning in April 2023. For the first time this gives Pivotal a stable platform from which to deliver our objectives, and to grow the organisation.

All our funders are clear about Pivotal's independence as a policy think tank. Funders are not involved in our work day-to-day. Our three current funders have each signed a legal agreement (which is available on our website) saying that they will not seek to influence the content, findings or timing of Pivotal's research outputs. The Board is clear that it is essential to maintain this separation between funders and Pivotal's work.

To date, as well as donations from individuals, Pivotal has received funding and support from:

- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade – Reconciliation Fund
- Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust

- Community Foundation for Northern Ireland
- Belfast Harbour
- NICVA – Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action
- International Public Policy Observatory (IPPO)
- Commissioned research projects (e.g. Equality Commission)

We continue to actively seek additional funding from a range of potential supporters.

We are grateful to Queen’s University Belfast for continuing to support Pivotal this year through providing IT equipment and support, and for the potential offer of pro bono office accommodation.

We have greatly benefited from ongoing work with Thought Collective (design agency) and Ryan Miller (media consultant). We are very grateful for their support and partnership in Pivotal’s work.

Future plans

The Board has agreed a business plan for 2023-24. In the early part of 2023-24 the team will be completing the research project with young people into how to make Northern Ireland a better place to live, work and study (funded by DFA’s Reconciliation Fund). This will involve three research reports in May, June and September, including publishing new current evidence on young people’s views and ideas from a survey and focus groups.

We plan two new research projects during the coming year. The first will be about how to address Northern Ireland’s long-standing challenge of high economic inactivity. The second project will look at ways to ensure Northern Ireland has sufficient income to adequately fund public services here, including looking at possible ways to raise more revenue locally.

Pivotal will continue to provide independent assessment of the big policy challenges facing Northern Ireland and analysis of how government is working here.

We will continue to seek opportunities to provide evidence-based analysis and comment on current issues, for example responding to consultations and inquiries, media opportunities and social media.

We remain committed to generating additional income that will enable Pivotal to grow, so that we are better resourced to make a useful and impactful contribution across a range of policy areas.

Thanks

The Trustees and staff team are very grateful to those organisations and individuals who have supported Pivotal financially. As an independent think tank without any alignment to governments or politics, we are operating in a very challenging funding environment. We greatly value those who have shared our vision and supported us financially.

My thanks to my fellow Trustees for giving their time and expertise to Pivotal. I am particularly grateful to Lisa Faulkner-Byrne and Olwen Lyner, who have now stepped down from the Board, for their contribution during Pivotal’s initial years. We were delighted to welcome four new Trustees during the year – Sarah Creighton, Jarlath Kearney, Andrew McCormick and Rosalind Skillen. Their insights, experience and connections have already enhanced our effectiveness as a Board.

Finally, my thanks to the staff team. We were sorry to lose Ben Harper during the year, but pleased to welcome James Greer a few months later. Particular thanks to Ann Watt who as Director provides vision and leadership to Pivotal across the board. The team covers an impressive amount of work over a wide range of issues; people are often surprised at how much Pivotal produces with such a small team. With our new stable funding base, a refreshed staff team and a renewed Board, we can already see a step-up in Pivotal's contribution. I look forward to seeing Pivotal develop further in the year ahead.

Peter Sheridan - Chair

12 June 2023

Public Policy Forum NI Limited

Northern Ireland - Charity number 108659

Annual return

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LIMITED (PIVOTAL)
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED
31 MARCH 2023

Registered Charity No: NIC108659

**Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of the Public Policy Forum NI Ltd
Charitable Company**

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the charity trustees (and the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006. Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law as the charity is a small company charity, it is exempt from audit in accordance with section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- state whether matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act. The examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records provided.
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

The accounts have been prepared using the accrual method.

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, and work has been undertaken to that I might state to the charitable company's members those matters which are required to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company's members and the charitable company's members as a body, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.



Karen Drennan
Karen Drennan Business Management Services
Chartered Accountant
101 Killinchy Road
Comber BT23 5NE
7 June 2023

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LIMITED - PIVOTAL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Note	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds 2023
		£	£	£
Income from:				
Donations and legacies	3	55,000	-	55,000
Other Trading Activities	4	31,525	-	31,525
Investments	5	-	-	-
Total income		<u>86,525</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>86,525</u>
Expenditure on:				
Raising Funds		-	-	-
Other Trading Activities	6	95,854	-	95,854
Total Expenditure		<u>95,854</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>95,854</u>
Net (Expenditure)/Income		(9,329)	-	(9,329)
Reconciliation of funds:				
Total funds brought forward		68,257	-	68,257
Total funds carried forward		<u>58,928</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>58,928</u>

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LIMITED - PIVOTAL

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income	86,525	111,094
Interest and investment income	-	-
Gross income	86,525	111,094
Expenditure	95,854	115,541
Total expenditure	95,854	115,541
Net income	(9,329)	(4,447)

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LIMITED - PIVOTAL


BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Note	2023	2022
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	-	-	-
Current assets			
Other Debtors	15	7,053	8,000
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>54,064</u>	<u>64,306</u>
		61,117	72,306
Creditors:			
Amounts falling due within one year	16	(2,189)	(4,049)
Net current assets		<u>58,928</u>	68,257
Creditors:			
Amounts falling due after more than one year	17	-	-
Net assets		<u>58,928</u>	<u>68,257</u>
 Charity Funds			
Restricted funds	19	58,928	68,257
Unrestricted funds	19	-	-
		<u>58,928</u>	<u>68,257</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

These financial statements on the following pages were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 12 June 2023


Trustee


Trustee

The notes on the following pages form part of these financial statements.

Company Registration Number: NI 656627

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LIMITED - PIVOTAL

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Note	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Cash flow from operating activities	21	(9,329)	(4,447)
Net cash flow from operating activities		<u>(9,329)</u>	<u>(4,447)</u>
Changes in:			
Trade and other debtors		947	- 8,000
Trade and other creditors		(1,860)	1,245
Net cash flow from operating activities		<u>(913)</u>	<u>(6,755)</u>
Cash flow from financing activities			
Proceeds from bank loan		-	-
Repayment of bank loan		-	-
Net cash flow from financing activities		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents		(10,242)	(11,202)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		64,306	75,508
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year		<u>54,064</u>	<u>64,306</u>

* Please note figures from 2022 have been recalculated and updated accordingly.

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LTD
NOTES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1 ACCOUNTING POLICES

General Information and basis of preparation

The Public Policy Forum NI Ltd is a charitable company and not having a share capital and is registered in Northern Ireland.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable United Kingdom accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland.

Statement of Compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in compliance with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2013, Charities (Accounts and reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention. The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the charitable company and rounded to the nearest £1.

Fund accounting – unrestricted funds

The charitable company's unrestricted funds consist of a general fund which is expendable at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the charitable objects of the organisation. The trustees may at their discretion designate funds for specific purposes but the designations does not legally restrict the trustees' discretion to apply the funds.

Fund accounting – restricted funds

The charitable company's restricted funds consist of funds where the donor has imposed restrictions on the use of the funds.

Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charitable company is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

For donations to be recognised the charitable company will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained then income is deferred until

those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the charitable company and it is probable that they will be fulfilled.

Voluntary income received by way of donations and gift is credited to revenue on a receivable basis.

For legacies, entitlement is the earlier of the charity being notified of an impending distribution or the legacy being received. At this point income is recognised. On occasion legacies will be notified to the charitable company however it is not possible to measure the amount expected to be distributed. On these occasions, the legacy is treated as contingent asset and disclosed.

The charitable company has received a grant from the International Public Policy Observatory to further its charitable activities. Income from grants are recognised at fair value when the charitable company has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably.

If entitlement is not met, then these amounts are deferred. Revenue grants are credited to incoming resources on the earlier date of when they are received or when they are receivable, unless they relate to a specified future period. Grants which contribute towards specific expenditure on fixed assets are credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in full upon receipt.

Accrued Income

Income from certain events has been accrued as the concerned event occurred before the year end.

Value Added Tax

The charitable company is not registered for VAT purposes; therefore, expenditure is shown gross of VAT.

Expenditure Recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

It is categorised under the following headings:

- Costs of raising funds comprises of direct costs; and
- Expenditure on charitable activities comprises those costs incurred by the charitable company in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries and includes direct costs for example, salary costs, consultancy costs, travel and subsistence and an apportionment of support costs

Support costs allocation

Support costs are those that assist the work of the charitable company but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs and administrative payroll costs.

They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objectives of the charitable company. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to headings, they have been allocated to cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources.

The analysis of these costs is included in note 7.

Taxation

As a charitable company, the company benefits from various exemptions afforded by tax legislation. It is therefore not liable to corporation tax on income or gains falling due within those exemptions. Recovery is made of tax deducted from receipts under gift aid.

Going Concern

The financial statement has been prepared on a going concern basis as the Trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The Trustees have considered the level of funds held and expected level of income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charitable company to be able to continue as a going concern.

2. Status

The company is a company limited by guarantee.

The company is accepted as a charity by H M Revenue & Customs within the definition of Section 506(1) of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1998. The company has been registered by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland since March 2022 (charity number NIC108659).

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LIMITED - PIVOTAL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£	£
Programme Sponsorship	15,000	-	15,000	69,594
Fundraising & Donations	32,000	-	32,000	-
Other income	8,000	-	8,000	-
	<u>55,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>55,000</u>	<u>69,594</u>

4. Income from Other Trading Activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£	£
Equality Commission NI	29,750	-	29,750	-
The Executive Office	-	-	-	25,000
Linen Quarter BID	-	-	-	10,000
The Department of Education	300	-	300	3,000
Belfast Chamber of Commerce	-	-	-	3,500
Training & Other income	1,475	-	1,475	-
	<u>31,525</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>31,525</u>	<u>41,500</u>

5. Income from investments

	£	£	2023 £	2022 £
Interest	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LIMITED - PIVOTAL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

6. Analysis of expenditure

	Activities undertaken directly	Grant funding of activities	Support costs	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Research & Publications	53,432	-	1,703	55,135
Communication & Engagement	25,025	-	856	25,881
Governance & Administration	7,097	-	322	7,419
Fundraising	7,097	-	322	7,419
	<u>92,651</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,203</u>	<u>95,854</u>

Analysis of expenditure

	Activities undertaken directly	Grant funding of activities	Support costs	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
Consultancy Fees	4,325	-	-	4,325
Research & Publications	64,322	-	984	65,306
Communication & Engagement	27,614	-	535	28,149
Governance & Administration	8,692	-	189	8,881
Fundraising	8,692	-	188	8,880
	<u>113,645</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,896</u>	<u>115,541</u>

7. Allocation of support costs

	Raising funds	Charitable activity	Total 2023
	£	£	£
Governance & Administration	-	600	600
Finance	-	99	99
Depreciation	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>699</u>	<u>699</u>

Allocation of support costs

	Raising funds	Charitable activity	Total 2022
	£	£	£
Governance	-	600	600
Finance	-	98	98
Depreciation	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>698</u>	<u>698</u>

8. Governance costs

	2023	2022
	£	£
Independent Examiners Costs	600	600
Trustees remuneration	-	-
Trustee expenses	28	-
Legal and professional fees	475	-
Other	-	-
	<u>1,103</u>	<u>600</u>

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LIMITED - PIVOTAL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

9. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE

	Total 2023			Total 2022					
	Raising Funds £	Other Trading Activities £	Other £	Total 2023 £	Analysed as:		Total 2023 £	Analysed as:	
					Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £
Direct costs									
Research & Publications	-	14,045	-	14,045	14,045	-	14,045	-	-
Communications & Engagement	-	5,265	-	5,265	5,265	4,325	5,265	4,325	-
Design & Print	-	1,196	-	1,196	1,196	3,499	1,196	3,499	-
Fundraising	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Salaries and NIC	-	64,682	-	64,682	64,682	96,744	64,682	96,744	-
Pension Contributions	-	6,254	-	6,254	6,254	9,079	6,254	9,079	-
Selection and Recruitment	-	1,209	-	1,209	1,209	-	1,209	-	-
Travelling and Subsistence	-	290	-	290	290	162	290	162	-
Printing and Stationery	-	9	-	9	9	50	9	50	-
Telephone and Computer charges	-	328	-	328	328	156	328	156	-
Membership & Subscriptions	-	293	-	293	293	73	293	73	-
Bank Charges and Interest	-	99	-	99	99	97	99	97	-
General Expenses	-	309	-	309	309	177	309	177	-
Insurance	-	772	-	772	772	579	772	579	-
Support costs									
Governance:									
Independent Examiner's Report	-	600	-	600	600	600	600	600	-
Trustees remuneration	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trustees expenses	-	28	-	28	28	-	28	-	-
Legal and professional fees	-	475	-	475	475	475	475	475	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Office costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	95,854	-	95,854	95,854	115,541	95,854	115,541	-

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LIMITED - PIVOTAL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS *(Continued)*

AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

10. Net income for the year

This is stated after charging:-

	2023	2022
	£	£
Independent Examiners Fee	600	600
Depreciation of fixed assets	-	-
Operating lease payments	-	-
	<u>600</u>	<u>600</u>

11. Independent Examiner's remuneration

The independent examiner's remuneration amounts to £600 and other services of £Nil

12. Trustees and key management personnel remuneration and expenses

The Trustees neither received nor waived any remuneration during the year.
Travel expenses of £28.14 was paid during the year.
The total amount of employee benefits received by key management personnel is £41,715.

13. Staff costs and employee benefits

The average number of employees, employed by the company during the period April 2022 - March 2023 as 2.

	2023	2022
	Number	Number
Raising funds	-	-
Charitable activities	2	3
Governance	-	-
	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>

The total staff costs and employee benefits incurred during the year was as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	62,538	90,817
Social security costs	2,144	5,927
Defined contribution pension costs	6,254	9,079
	<u>70,936</u>	<u>105,823</u>

No employee received total employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of more than £60,000 during the period April 2022 - March 2023.

	2023	2022
<i>Allocated to:</i>		
Raising funds	-	-
Charitable activity	70,936	56,229
	<u>70,936</u>	<u>56,229</u>

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LIMITED - PIVOTAL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

14. Taxation

The charitable company is a registered charity and as such, is entitled to certain tax exemptions on income and profits from investments and surpluses on any trading activities carried out in the furtherance of the charitable company's primary objectives, if these profits and surpluses are applied solely for charitable purposes.

The charity is not registered for VAT and accordingly, all their expenditure is inclusive of VAT incurred.

15. Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Prepayments and accrued income	7,053	8,000
Amounts owed by related party	-	-
	<u>7,053</u>	<u>8,000</u>

16. Creditors: -amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Bank loans and overdrafts	-	-
Other tax and social security	-	633
Other creditors	2,189	3,416
Amounts owed to related party	-	-
Accruals	-	-
Deferred income	-	-
	<u>2,189</u>	<u>4,049</u>

17. Creditors: -amounts falling due after more than one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Bank loans and overdrafts	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

18. Pensions

The company operates a money purchase pension scheme for its employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund. The pension costs charge represents contributions payable by the company to the fund and amounted to £8,755 (2021-2022 £12,710) The amount of pension costs accrued at the year end amounted to £2189 (2021-2022 - £2146).

19. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible fixed assets £	Net current assets £	Long term liabilities £	2023 £
Unrestricted	-	58,928	-	58,928
Restricted	-	-	-	-
Total	<u>-</u>	<u>58,928</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>58,928</u>

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LIMITED - PIVOTAL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

20. Fund reconciliations

Unrestricted funds

	Balance at 31-Mar 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
General	68,257	86,525	(95,854)	-	58,928
Designated	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>68,257</u>	<u>86,525</u>	<u>(95,854)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>58,928</u>

Unrestricted funds consist of funds which are expendable at the discretion of the Charity in furtherance of its objectives. In addition to expenditure on activities such funds may be held in order to finance capital investment and working capital.

21. Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Net income for the year	- 9,329	- 4,447
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	-	-
Interest from investments	-	-
Increase in debtors	947	8,000
Increase in creditors	(1,860)	1,245
Net cash flow from operating activities	<u>(10,242)</u>	<u>(11,202)</u>

*Please note that figures for 2022 have been recalculated and updated accordingly

22. Financial commitments

No contracts had been placed for future capital expenditure at the balance sheet date.

23. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

The company has a contingent liability to repay grants received if the company fails to comply with certain conditions stipulated in the letters of offer under which the grants were paid. The directors do not expect any claims to be made in this respect.

24. COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

The Public Policy Forum NI Ltd is a company limited by guarantee having no share capital. It is governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association and the liability of the members is limited to an amount not exceeding £1.

25. ETHICAL STANDARDS

In common with many other organisations of our size and nature, we use our independent examiner to prepare and assist with the preparation of the financial statements.

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LIMITED - PIVOTAL

DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

INCOME	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
GRANTS				
Department of Foreign Affairs	-		54,594	
International Public Policy Observatory	15,000		15,000	
		15,000		69,594
OTHER INCOME				
Research Income	30,050		41,500	
Other Income	1,475		-	
Donations	32,000		-	
Gift Aid	8,000		-	
		71,525		41,500
TOTAL INCOME		86,525		111,094
EXPENDITURE				
<u>Central Costs</u>				
Salaries and NIC	64,682		96,744	
Pension Contributions	6,254		9,079	
Staff travel and subsistence	318		162	
Staff training and conferences	-		-	
Administration and office costs (Note 1)	2,885		1,732	
Selection and Recruitment Costs	1,209		-	
		75,348		107,717
<u>Communication & Engagement</u>				
Research & Publications	14,045		-	
Communications & Engagement	5,265		4,325	
Design & Print	1,196		3,499	
		20,506		7,824
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		95,854		115,541
TOTAL INCOME (Page xx)		86,525		111,094
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		- 9,329		- 4,447

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM NI LIMITED - PIVOTAL

DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT *(Continued)*

AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

Note 1	2023	2022
	£	£
ADMINISTRATION AND OFFICE COSTS		
Telephone, computer & IT costs	328	156
Printing, stationery and postage	9	50
Insurance	772	579
Payroll Fees	309	177
Independent Examiners Fee	600	600
Professional & Legal Fees	475	-
Membership & Subscriptions	293	73
Bank charges	99	97
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION AND OFFICE COSTS	<u>2,885</u>	<u>1,732</u>